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Adjourned Stated Meeting of November 5, 1897, November 10, 1897.

Vice-President PEPPER in the Chair.

Present, 20 members.

The Society met pursuant to adjournment, and resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole, with Mr. Garrett in the Chair. The Committee resumed the consideration of the proposed amendments to the Laws.

The Committee of the Whole rose and reported, and on motion the meeting adjourned to Wednesday evening, November 17, at 8 o'clock.

Adjourned Stated Meeting of November 5, 1897, November 17, 1897.

Mr. GARRETT in the Chair.

Present, 14 members.

The Society resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole, and resumed the consideration of the proposed amendments to the Laws.

The Committee of the Whole rose and reported, and the Society was adjourned by the presiding member.

Stated Meeting, November 19, 1897.

Mr. RICHARD WOOD in the Chair.

Present, 10 members.

Letters of acknowledgment of election to membership were read from Dr. E. R. Squibb, Sig. Rodolfo Lanciani and Mr. Charles D. Walcott.

Donations to the Library were reported and thanks were ordered for them.

The decease of the following members was announced:

Mr. William Woodnut Griscom, of Philadelphia, on September 24, 1897, æt. 46.

Dr. Harrison Allen, at Philadelphia, on November 14, 1897, æt. 56.

Mr. R. H. Mathews presented a paper on "Rock Carvings and Paintings of the Australian Aborigines."

The Society resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole, and continued the consideration of the proposed amendments to the Laws.

The Committee rose and reported. The Society resumed its session, Vice-President Pepper in the Chair.

The Finance Committee reported upon the legacy of Henry Phillips, Jr., deceased.

The meeting was adjourned by the presiding officer.

ROCK CARVINGS AND PAINTINGS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES.

(Plate X.)

BY R. H. MATHEWS, L.S.

(*Read November 19, 1897.*)

INTRODUCTORY.

The wide distribution throughout Australia of these native drawings would lead us to expect that the figures of animals and various objects carved upon large rocks—and the groups of hands, varying in number and in relative position, as well as weapons and other tribal devices painted on the walls of caves—had some symbolical meaning in connection with the myths and superstitions of the natives, or were commemorative of events and scenes in the history and life of the tribes. Most of the figures of animals were probably intended to represent the totems of the different families; but it seems reasonable to suppose that some of the smaller drawings and